

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
JUNE 29, 2022**

Board President Joseph A. Caffrey called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

Superintendent Costello led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in memory of John R. Quinn.

Board Secretary, Thomas F. Telesz called the roll.

8 Members Present: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

President Caffrey:

- The Chair announced the Board held an Executive Session prior to the Regular Board Meeting June 29, 2022. The subjects discussed in these Executive Sessions related solely to matters of employee relations, labor negotiations, and/or threatened or actual litigation.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

At this time Superintendent Costello and the Board Members shared their memories and experiences they had the pleasure of sharing with John Quinn. Every Board member had their own unique memories but they all shared a common theme. John had a passion for history, sports, life and family. He fought for a better education for all students. He was one of the first phone calls new members on the Board received to offer his congratulations and assistance. He appreciated a great debate even if he was on the losing end. His recollection of high school sports stats was as vast as his knowledge of history. His most favorite thing was his family and cheering on his grandchildren at their sporting events. John was a rough and tough on the outside but had a heart of gold on the inside. He said to someone after the loss of a parent "Do you have good memories? Because in the end that's all you have and when they are good it makes it better to move forward." He will be truly missed.

APOLLO REPORT/FACILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Krzywicki - Meyers High School – padlocks were installed, windows were boarded up and security checks are continuing while building is unoccupied. **Daniel J. Flood Elementary** – Requested pricing for exterior stairs on Washington Street, continued field and lawn maintenance. **Heights-Murray Elementary** – continued lawn maintenance; installed temporary protection for broken window and ordered replacement glass; completed the switchgear replacement and today the power was turned back on. There will be a few days of transition to check freezers, coolers, etc. **Solomon Complex** – continued installation of projects and projector screens; continued pothole patching; obtained quotes for replacement of boiler expansion tank; continued roof replacement; completed repairs to sidewalk lighting on Abbott Street side of the middle school; continued replacement of recessed lighting fixtures on middle school side; continued field and lawn maintenance. **Dodson Elementary** – continued painting of classrooms. **Kistler Elementary** – continued lawn maintenance; investigated water infiltration at pool lobby. **GAR Middle School** – commenced preparation of bid documents for partial roof replacement; obtained quotes for repairs to the chiller; continued lawn maintenance. **WBA High School** – Traffic signals at Abbott Street will not be activated until the analysis of recent traffic study has been completed; the Building Shell contractor, HVAC contractor, Sitework contractor and Landscaping contractor

have continued to address their punch list items; continued lawn & field maintenance; continued installation of bulletin boards; ordered mirrors for the Fitness Center; the Stadium contractor has completed installation of turf, bituminous paving for track, flagpole, goal posts and support structure for scoreboard. Continued installation of bleachers, sidewalks, curbs, fencing, topsoil and construction of the electrical room. Commenced installation of foundations for ticket booths.

We have commenced summer cleaning and removed the disabled vehicles from the warehouse property.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Sam Troy, Wilkes-Barre, PA – Mr. Troy advocated for additional time for public opinion relating to agenda items and a citizens advisory committee. Discussed newspaper report regarding the graduation rate, teacher salaries and expenditures for Wilkes-Barre Area.

LUZERNE INTERMEDIATE UNIT #18

Ms. Thomas – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

Mr. Evans – The next meeting will be held the first week of August.

CURRICULUM/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Evans presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval.

1. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and New Story, 1150 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, PA to provide educational services for the 2022-2023 school year at daily rates from \$274 to \$510 depending on the acuity level of the student. **“Exhibit A”**
2. That approval be given to ratify an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Luzerne County Department of Probation Services Juvenile Probation for the 2022-2023 school year.
3. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Peditria Healthcare, LLC d/b/a AVEANNA Healthcare, to provide healthcare services to students at hourly rates as listed on “Schedule A”. **“Exhibit B”**
4. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Specialized Education of Pennsylvania, Inc. (SESI) at the Graham Academy to provide educational services beginning August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023 at the following daily rates: \$274 (regular school year); \$160 (extended school year). Other services provided are OT, PT and Speech and Language Therapies at \$128 per one (1) hour session; 1:1 Aide \$174 per day. Additional services listed are provided at hourly rates are outlined in the agreement. **“Exhibit C”**

- 5. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between Wilkes-Barre Area School District and FUNctional Connections, LLC to provide ABA based services to the students in the District beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The rates for services are outlined in the agreement. **“Exhibit D”**
- 6. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Children’s Service Center of Wyoming Valley for the Therapeutic Education Program at a cost of \$177.00 per student per day effective the first day of the 2022-2023 school year and ending the last day of the 2022-2023 school year including Extended School Year (ESY) if eligible with appropriate ESY billing rate. **“Exhibit E”**
- 7. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Children’s Service Center of Wyoming Valley for the Partial Hospitalization Program at a cost of \$134.50 per student per day effective the first day of the 2022-2023 school year and ending the last day of the 2022-2023 school year including Extended School Year (ESY) if eligible with appropriate ESY billing rate. **“Exhibit F”**
- 8. That approval be given to ratify a subscription agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Newsela, Inc., 500 5th Avenue, FL 28, New York, NY to provide supplemental educational materials at a cost of \$9,985.00. **“Exhibit G”**
- 9. That approval be given to ratify an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Pennsylvania’s Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH). **“Exhibit H”**
- 10. That approval be given to ratify the adoption of the Luzerne Intermediate Unit’s approved LEA Policies, Procedures and use of funds by School District. **“Exhibit I”**
- 11. That approval be given to the amended school calendar for the 2022-2023 school year.

**WILKES BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

September 1, 2022.....	Act 80/Professional Development/Staff Preparation Day
September 6, 2022.....	Act 80/Professional Development/Staff Preparation Day
September 7, 2022.....	Elementary School Act 80/Professional Development Day
September 7, 2022.....	Middle & High School Student First Day –School Opens
September 8, 2022.....	Elementary School Student First Day –School Opens
October 10, 2022	Columbus Day
November 11, 2022.....	Veteran’s Day
November 14-18, 2022.....	American Education Week
November 24–28, 2022.....	Thanksgiving Vacation
December 5–16, 2022.....	Keystone State Exams Wave 1
December 26 - January 2, 2023.....	Christmas Vacation
January 3, 2023	School Re-Opens
January 16, 2023	Martin Luther King Day

January 31, 2023	Second Semester Begins
February 13, 2023	Act 80/Professional Development
February 20, 2023	Presidents Day
March 3, 2023	Middle & High School Act 80/Professional Development
April 6 - 10, 2023	Easter Vacation
April 24 - May 12, 2023	PSSA Testing
May 15 - 26, 2023	Keystone Exams
May 29, 2023	Memorial Day
June 9, 2023	Last Student Day
June 9, 2023	Graduation
June 12, 2023	Clerical, Evaluation, Planning

*All dates listed that school is not in session are potential make-up days.

12. That approval be given to make the following changes to the configuration of schools in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District: The Wolfpack Early Learning Academy, serving 4-year old District students, will open in the 2022-2023 school year and will require a new School Code Number.

13. That approval be given to the Settlement Agreement and Release between the District and the parents/legal guardians of the student P.K.

14. That approval be given to purchase a new Reading program from Zaner-Bloser SuperKids for grades K-2 in the amount of \$829,671.71. This quote includes consumable and non-consumable books, teacher guides and materials and a multi-year professional development plan.

15. That approval be given to purchase a new Reading program from McGraw-Hill Open Court Reading for grades 3-5 in the amount of \$470,134.54. This quote includes consumable and non-consumable books, teacher guides and materials and a teacher workspace subscription for six years.

Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt the Curriculum Administration Report

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

BUDGET FINANCE/MATERIALS & SUPPLIES/CONTRACTED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Rev. Walker presented the following report and recommendations for the Board’s approval.

A. ADMINISTRATIVE

1. That approval be given to the Treasurer’s Report for May 2022. **“Exhibit J”**

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2. That approval be given to the Settlement Agreement and Release between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Quandel Construction Group, Inc. as per terms listed in “Exhibit K”
3. Capital Projects – That approval be given to the below listed payments.

A3.1	Apollo Group, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 54	\$1,788.23
A3.2	Benell, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 32B	\$50,637.71
A3.3	Green Valley Landscaping, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 14	\$22,230.00
A3.4	Quandel Construction Group, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 35	\$1,471,478.47
A3.5	Scranton Sheet Metal, Inc.	New High School Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 32	\$60,753.16
A3.6	CDW Government	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. # X881814	\$236.94
A3.7	CDW Government	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. # Z064822	\$1,908.20
A3.8	Deere & Company	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. # 117338067	\$21,235.90
A3.9	Cohen Seglias	New High School Project	Capital Projects	Inv. # 265042	\$3,621.80
A3.10	Apollo Group, Inc.	New Stadium Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 8	\$37,031.05
A3.11	Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects	Field House/ Ticket Booth Proj.	Capital Projects	Inv. 716-06-2022	\$58,177.18
A3.12	Keystone Sports Construction	New Stadium Projects	Capital Projects	Inv. # 1864	\$2,633,355.83
A3.13	Keystone Sports Construction	New Stadium Projects	Capital Projects	Inv. # 1883	\$898,677.16
A3.14	Geo-Science Engineering & Testing	New Stadium Project	Capital Projects	Inv. # 0004747	\$12,503.75
A3.15	Apollo Group, Inc.	Solomon/Plains Roof Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 3	\$21,669.52
A3.16	Dunmore Roofing	Solomon/Plains Roof Project	Capital Projects	App. No, 2	\$387,820.44
A3.17	Dunmore Roofing	Solomon/Plains Roof Project	Capital Projects	App. No. 3	\$208,413.99

4. That approval be given to ratify the following Capital Projects check:

VENDOR	CHECK #	AMOUNT
Bonner Chevrolet	630	\$47,457.90
Plains Township	631	\$49,129.50
Plains Township	632	\$8,320.75

B. FEDERAL

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following Federal Fund AP Checks #2521 to #2542; Federal Fund Wire Transfers #202100807 to #202100819 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on May 26, 2022.

C. GENERAL FUND/FOOD SERVICE

That in accordance with the authority of the Board, the following General Fund Checks #58575 to #58625 and General Fund Wire Transfers #202111905 to #202111924 and Food Service Checks #3743 to #3752 which were drawn for payment since the last regular Board meeting of the Board of Education held on May 26, 2022 be approved.

D. GENERAL FUND

That checks #58626 to #58739 listed on the following pages, which have been inspected, be approved and that order be drawn for the respective amounts set down opposite the names of persons or firms.

E. CONTRACTED SERVICES

1. That approval be given to ratify an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and SMG (Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza), 255 Highland Park Blvd., Wilkes-Barre, PA for the Wilkes-Barre Area High School graduation ceremony being held on June 10, 2022. **“Exhibit L”**
2. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Rosen Real Estate, Inc., 15 Public Square, Suite 206, Wilkes-Barre, PA, for the appraisal of the Russin Properties, LLC Property, 136 Maffett Street, Plains Twp., at a fee not to exceed \$2,000. **“Exhibit M”**
3. That approval be given to ratify the proposal from Liberty Mutual Insurance for Builders Risk Insurance for the WBA Stadium construction project in the amount of \$26,968.00. **“Exhibit N”**
4. That approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Keystone Sports Construction to design one (1) synthetic turf athletic dual field, associated drainage, grading and site improvements installed at one (1) recreational sports facility at a total cost of \$4,289,364.83. Prices are based upon COSTARS contract (COSTARS 14-195). **“Exhibit O”**
5. That approval be given to renew the Student Accident/Interscholastic Sports Insurance Policy for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years to Bollinger Specialty Group at an annual cost of \$24,085.

6. That approval be given to renew the District’s Commercial Package (Property and Liability, Commercial Automobile, the School Leader’s Liability, Data Security and Excess/Umbrella and Violent Event/Active Shooter coverage through Utica National Insurance Group, for the 2022-2023 school year, effective July 1, 2022 at a combined rate of \$299,572.14.
7. That approval be given to approve the District’s Workers Compensation Insurance Policy for the 2022-2023 school year effective July 1, 2022 through MEMIC Casualty Company at a cost of \$314,949.
8. That approval be given to enter into a five-year Sports Medicine Care agreement beginning July 2022 through July 2027 between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Geisinger that includes the following: **“Exhibit P”**

Athletic training services - no cost to the District.
 Athletic sponsorship - \$50,000 annual contribution
 2 Educational Scholarships - \$1,000 each
 1 Educational Recognition Award - \$1,000
 Athletic Trainer Supplies - \$5,000

9. That after review of bids approval be given to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Waste Management of Pennsylvania, Inc. for waste disposal services for three years beginning August 1, 2022 at an estimated annual cost of \$168,000 (excluding the Wilkes-Barre Area High School).
10. That approval to enter into an agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the Pennsylvania School-Based ACCESS Program (SBAP) for the 2022-2023 school year. **“Exhibit Q”**
11. That approval be given to Change Order #7 for Keystone Sports Construction in the amount of (\$14,407.68). The Change Order consists of the following

Delete 160 Linear feet of Ball Stopper	(\$14,407.68)
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12. That approval be given to Change Order #8 for Keystone Sports Construction in the amount of \$97,851.60. The Change Order consists of the following:

Excavate unsuitable material	\$17,970.29
Backfill over excavation w/on-site suitable material per/CY	\$46,859.23
February winter conditions – Seifert	\$2,740.08
March winter conditions – Seifert	\$1,596.00
April winter conditions – Seifert	\$4,473.84
Frost removal – Gutelius	\$7,412.16
Add brick veneer to exterior building	\$16,800.00

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Dr. Susek to adopt the Budget Finance/Materials & Supplies/Contracted Services Report

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

1 Nay: Harris (E-4)

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Mr. Atherton – We met with the Spring Sports Coaches at the end of the season. Discussion were held regarding coaching evaluations, successes, failures, coaching philosophy's and challenges they may have experienced.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Thomas – There is no report at this time.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Atherton – We met with Mr. Krzywicki this week at Kistler Elementary School and discussed maintenance plans for the summer. Another meeting will be held in July.

FACILITIES TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Ms. Thomas – There is no report at this time. Atty. Wendolowski reported on the Grant Street property sale. We are moving forward with a closing, just waiting on a hearing date from the buyer's attorney.

STUDENT WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Ms. Thomas – Students will continue to have free breakfast and lunch. We are working to provide students involved in after school activities to have some type of snack. Our food service staff is looking into this request.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Rev. Walker – There is no report at this time. We will be meeting with the Administration in the near future to discuss the Dress Code policy.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Atty. Wendolowski – Before beginning with this report as discussed in Executive Session we need to amend the Agenda as it was published to add two (2) positions under Section D, Items 15 & 16.

Motion to amend the Agenda to add Items 15 & 16 under Section D by Dr. Susek seconded by Mr. Atherton.

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Dr. Susek presented the following report and recommendations for the Board's approval.

All appointments are made pending the receipt of PDE required clearances, certifications, and any applicable pre-employment drug test.

A. Agreement

1. That approval be given to the Administrators Act 93 Agreement, between the Board of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the members of Act 93 effective July 1, 2022.
2. That approval be given to the Affiliated Site Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Walden University agreement. **“EXHIBIT R”**

B. Confidential Secretary

1. That the Purchasing Agent be added to the confidential secretary agreement effective June 29, 2022. That **Ann Etter** be appointed Purchasing Agent within the confidential secretary agreement effective August 1, 2022.

C. ACT 93

1. That the retirement of **John Chimento** be accepted effective June 17, 2022, as a Group C Administrator in the Act 93 Agreement.
2. That **Sean McLaughlin** be appointed an Assistant Principal effective July 1, 2022.
3. That **Corey Brenner** be appointed an Assistant Principal effective July 1, 2022.
4. That _____ be appointed a Principal effective July 1, 2022. **TABLED**

D. Professionals

1. That **Linda Scarantino** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an Elementary Teacher.
2. That **Nayeli Tapia** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an Elementary Teacher.

3. That **Jessica Hendler** be appointed a temporary professional employee as an Elementary Teacher.
4. That **Matthew Kuhl** be appointed a temporary professional employee as a Special Education Teacher.
5. That **Janet Castrignano** be appointed a Special Education Long-Term Substitute Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year.
6. That **Katlyn Beidler** be appointed a ESSER 3 Math Long-Term Substitute Teacher for the 2022-2023, 2023-2024 school year.
7. That **Edward Rosengrant** be appointed a Title 1 Math Long-Term Substitute Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year.
8. That _____ be appointed a Math Long-Term Substitute Teacher for the 1st Semester of the 2022-2023 school year. **TABLED**
9. That **Sydney Hendrick** be appointed an ESSER 2 Elementary Long-Term Substitute Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year.
10. That **Kathie Miles** be appointed an ESSER 2 Elementary Long-Term Substitute Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year.
11. That **Erica Eck** be appointed an ESSER 2 Elementary Long-Term Substitute Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year.
12. That **Amy Rau** be appointed an ESSER 2 Elementary Long-Term Substitute Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year.
13. That **Jacquelyn Miles** be appointed an ESSER 3 Elementary Long-Term Substitute Teacher for the 2022-2023, 2023-2024 school year.
14. That **Brittany Nastawa** be appointed an ESSER 3 Elementary Long-Term Substitute Teacher for the 2022-2023, 2023-2024 school year.
15. That **Karissa Wondoloski** be appointed an ESSER 2 Elementary Long-Term Substitute Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year.
16. That **Mary Claire Corcoran** be appointed an ESSER 2 Elementary Long-Term Substitute Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year.

E. Secretaries & Teachers' Associates

1. That _____ be appointed a 12 Month Secretary, Level IV. **TABLED**
2. That **Dalips Velez's** request for unpaid leave for May 20, 2022, and May 23, 2022, be accepted.
3. That **Porscha Cassaberry's** request for unpaid leave for June 1, 2022 to June 6, 2022 be accepted.
4. That _____ be appointed ESSER Part Time Teacher's Associate (Paraprofessional/PCA) 20 hours per week with a position termination date at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. **TABLED**

F. Custodians, Maintenance and Housekeepers

1. That the retirement of **Anne Leo** be accepted effective July 15, 2022.
2. That the resignation of **Edwina Whiting** be accepted effective June 7, 2022.
3. That _____ be appointed a Sub-Custodian. **TABLED**

G. Crossing Guards

1. That the retirement of **Grace Lecitshon** be accepted effective June 10, 2022.
2. That the retirement of **Karen Clark** be accepted effective June 10, 2022.
3. That **Bernard Golomb** be appointed a Substitute Crossing Guard.
4. That **Joseph Hossage** be appointed a Substitute Crossing Guard.

H. Security Greeters

1. That the retirement of **Bruce Richards** be accepted effective June 10, 2022.
2. That **Richard Thomas** be appointed a Security Greeter.

I. Athletics

1. That the resignation of **Shawn Walker** be accepted effective immediately.
2. The following appointments are made for the sport season and will be continued on a season to season basis unless, the post is declared vacant by the Board of School Directors. All appointments are effective upon all PDE required clearances and documents being submitted.

Girls Basketball Varsity Associate Head Coach	Dale Rapson
Boys Basketball Varsity Associate Head Coach (1/2 pay)	Joshua Pstrak
Boys Basketball Varsity Associate Head Coach (1/2 pay)	Kalyim Williams
Boys Basketball Varsity Assistant Coach (1/2 pay)	David Jannuzzi
Boys Basketball Varsity Assistant Coach (1/2 pay)	Larry Anderscavage
Boys Basketball Junior High Assistant Coach (Solomon MS)	Gabriel Saracino
Wrestling Varsity Associate Head Coach	Michael Brown
Wrestling Junior High Head Coach	Tim Luton
Softball Varsity Head Coach	TABLED
Cross Country/Track & Field Junior High Head Coach	Anthony Dates

Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Mr. Evans to adopt the Personnel Committee Report

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Rev. Walker presented Resolution #1

RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, in accordance with law, prepared the following budget, of the amount of funds that will be required by the School District in its several departments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$145,019,000.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District hereby presents the expenditures as hereinafter set forth during the fiscal year 2022-2023 and levies a tax of 18.4332 mills per dollar (\$18.43 per thousand dollars) of assessed valuation on real estate; re-enacts and/or continues in force the Resolution of June 29, 1971, providing for the levy, assessment and collection of the following taxes: (a) one (1) per centum on transfers of title of real estate; (b) a local services tax (formerly occupational privilege tax) of ten (10) dollars; (c) the earned income tax (wage tax) of one (1%) per cent; (d) the mercantile tax at the rate and under the terms and provisions set forth in the Resolution previously adopted; re-enacts and/or continues in force the Resolution of June 30, 1986 providing for the levy, assessment and collection of the business privilege tax at a rate of one and one-half (1½) mills; re-enacts and/or continues in force the Resolution of June 26, 1987 providing for the levy, assessment and collection of per capita tax of ten (10) dollars.

Rev. Walker moved, seconded by Dr. Susek to adopt Resolution #1.

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Mr. Atherton presented Resolution #2

RESOLUTION #2

**WILKES-BARRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2022 HOMESTEAD and FARMSTEAD EXCLUSION RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of Wilkes-Barre Area School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2022, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusions Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. **Aggregate amount available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction.**
The following amounts are available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2022:
 - a. **Gambling Tax Funds.** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District the PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. Section 6926.505 (b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of \$3,627,104.48
 - b. **Philadelphia tax credit reimbursement funds.** PDE has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to ACT 1, 53 P.S. Section 6926.325 (3), as reimbursement for Philadelphia tax credits claimed against the School District earned income tax by School District resident taxpayers, the amount of \$9,871.38
 - c. **Aggregate amount available.** Adding these amounts the aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction is \$3,636,975.86

2. **Homestead/Farmstead numbers.** Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. Section 8584 (i), and Act 1, 53 P.S. Section 6926.341 (g) (3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and approved farmsteads as follows:
 - a. **Homestead property number.** The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 11,224.
 - b. **Farmstead property number.** The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 1.
 - c. **Homestead/Farmstead combined number.** Adding these numbers, the aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 11,225.

3. **Real estate tax reduction calculation.** The School Board has decided that the homestead exclusion amount and the farmstead exclusion amount shall be equal. Dividing the paragraph 1 (c) aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction of \$3,636,975.86 by the paragraph 2 (c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 11,225, the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$324.01.

4. **Homestead exclusion calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$324.01 by the School District real estate tax rate of 18.4332 mills (.0184332) the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$17,578.00, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$17,578.00

5. **Homestead/Farmstead exclusion authorization – July 1 tax bills.** The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, of (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$17,578.00. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County established value of the farmstead, of (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$17,578.00. For purposes of this Resolution, “approved homestead” and “approved farmstead” shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report referred to in Paragraph 2 above and received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1 pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. Section 6926.341 (g) (3), based on homestead/farmstead applications filed with the County Assessment Office on or before March 1. This paragraph 5 will apply to tax notices used based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing

initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1, and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills.

- 6. Homestead/Farmstead exclusion authorization – interim real estate tax bills.** No homestead or farmstead exclusion will apply to any interim tax bill except an interim tax bill applicable to a property that includes an approved homestead or approved farmstead listed in the report received by the school District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1, but not included in the tax assessment reflected in the July 1 tax bill for the property. In most cases, the assessment of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads will be reflected in July 1 tax bills. However, in any case when there is an approved homestead or an approved farmstead that is not included in the assessment reflected in the July 1 tax bill, and when an interim real estate tax notice is issued later based on an interim assessment including the approved homestead or approved farmstead, the interim tax notice shall reflect a homestead or farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction calculated under paragraph 5, except that the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will be pro-rated in the same manner as the real estate tax is pro-rated. Assuming the interim tax notice reflects taxation of July 1, as will occur in most such cases, the full amount of paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will apply. In the extraordinary case where the new interim tax assessment is effective after July 1, the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will be pro-rated in the same manner as the real estate tax reflected in the interim tax bill is pro-rated.

Mr. Atherton moved, seconded by Mr. Evans to adopt Resolution #2.

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Dr. Susek presented Resolution #3

**RESOLUTION #3
Authority to Prepare Real Estate Tax Statements**

BE IT RESOLVED, that Diamond Marketing Solutions be authorized to prepare the school real estate tax statements for the 2022 Tax Duplicate at a rate of \$148.69 per 1000 bills including envelopes and duplicates at a rate of \$90.02 per 1000 bills with date of issue July 18, 2022; 2% discount through September 16, 2022; face amount September 17, 2022 through November 16, 2022; and 10% penalty due after November 17, 2022. Further, that Tax Collectors be authorized to offer three installment payments of the face amount of school real estate taxes, provided taxable choose this option on or before August 19, 2022. (Installment due dates shall be: 1st – August 19, 2022; 2nd – October 19, 2022; 3rd – December 19, 2022). A 10% penalty will be added to each delinquent installment not paid on or before the due date of the installment. Delinquent installments must be paid prior to the Tax Collectors accepting payment of subsequent installments.

Dr. Susek moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt Resolution #3.

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Mr. Evans presented Resolution #4

**RESOLUTION #4
Real Estate Tax Collector for Wilkes-Barre Township**

BE IT RESOLVED, that approval be given to appoint Elite Revenue Solutions, 100 Wilkes-Barre Boulevard, Suite 205, Wilkes-Barre, PA the collector of School Real Estate Taxes for Wilkes-Barre Township for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022 at a commission of \$2.20 per taxable, \$0 per interim bills, plus postage.

In addition, it shall be the responsibility of the Tax Collector to comply with the duties and responsibilities of the position as contained in the Local Tax Collection Law Act of May 25, 1945, P.L. 1050, No. 394, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs “Tax Collectors Manual.” The Tax Collector must also comply with the procedures and requirements of the District for tax collectors established in its resolution of January 12, 2005.

The Tax Collector shall be required to furnish either a surety or collateral bond as required by the School Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Dr. Susek to adopt Resolution #4.

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Ms. Harris presented Resolution #5

**RESOLUTION #5
Real Estate Tax Collector for Wilkes-Barre City**

BE IT RESOLVED, that approval be given to appoint Elite Revenue Solutions, 100 Wilkes-Barre Boulevard, Suite 205, Wilkes-Barre, PA the collector of School Real Estate Taxes for Wilkes-Barre City for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022 at a commission of \$2.20 per taxable, \$0 per interim bills, plus postage.

In addition, it shall be the responsibility of the Tax Collector to comply with the duties and responsibilities of the position as contained in the Local Tax Collection Law Act of May 25, 1945, P.L. 1050, No. 394, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs “Tax Collectors Manual.” The Tax Collector must also comply with the procedures and requirements of the District for tax collectors established in its resolution of January 12, 2005.

The Tax Collector shall be required to furnish either a surety or collateral bond as required by the School Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Harris moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt Resolution #5.

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Ms. Thomas presented Resolution #6

**RESOLUTION #6
Per Capita Tax Collector**

BE IT RESOLVED, that Berkheimer Associates be appointed to serve as collector of the Per Capita tax for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 at a rate of .25 cents per taxable individual plus postage, which will be the total cost to the School District. The Tax Collector is authorized to collect delinquent Per Capita Tax, receiving total remunerations from the costs assessed to the delinquent taxable (i.e. at no cost to the School District).

Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Ms. Harris to adopt Resolution #6.

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Mr. Breese presented Resolution #7

**RESOLUTION #7
Local Services Tax Collectors**

BE IT RESOLVED, that Berkheimer Associates be appointed to serve as Tax Collector for the collection of Local Services Tax for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 at a commission not to exceed 2.05% of the gross amount of the tax collected and distributed to the school district.

Mr. Breese moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas to adopt Resolution #7.

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Atty. Wendolowski – We have two applicants to fulfill the term of John Quinn. We will now accept nominations for either of these applicants at this time.

Motion by Ms. Thomas to nominate Warren Faust.

Motion by Ms. Harris to nominate Richard Gazenski.

Motion to close nominations by Rev. Walker seconded by Dr. Susek.

Roll Call:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Viva Voce Vote

Atherton - Richard Gazenski
Breese - Warren Faust
Evans - Warren Faust
Harris - Richard Gazenski
Susek - Warren Faust
Thomas - Warren Faust
Walker - Warren Faust
Caffrey - Warren Faust

Mr. Atherton presented Resolution #8

RESOLUTION #8

WHEREAS the untimely passing of **John R. Quinn**, has left a vacancy on the Wilkes-Barre Area Board of Education, and

THEREFORE, the Board of Education appoints **Warren Faust** to complete his term which is to expire December 2023.

Mr. Atherton moved, seconded by Dr. Susek to adopt Resolution #8

The vote was as follows:

8 Ayes: Atherton, Breese, Evans, Harris, Susek, Thomas, Walker, Caffrey

Mr. Caffrey presented Resolution #9

RESOLUTION #9

WHEREAS, the recent death of **John R. Quinn** has brought sorrow to his family, friends, and all who knew him, and

WHEREAS, he was a current member of the Board of Education and former educator and coach of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, and

WHEREAS, he was the valedictorian of the graduating class of 1966 from Wilkes-Barre Township High School, He went on to Bloomsburg State University where he earned his Bachelor of Science and Master’s degrees. He also served in the Pennsylvania National Guard from 1970 to 1972. John was well respected for his long career as a teacher and coach of basketball and baseball at Wilkes-Barre Township Jr. High School and Coughlin High School. He coached Coughlin’s team in 1998 when they won their first Wyoming Valley Conference Basketball

Championship. John was twice voted Coach of the Year and was elected to the Luzerne County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. He was very civic minded and served on various committees and boards including the Wilkes-Barre Twp. Council. John had a curious intellect and was a passionate student of history, and

WHEREAS, he was always excited to cheer on his granddaughters at all their sporting events and activities encouraging them and his athletes to “give it their all”, and

WHEREAS, his passing will leave an unfillable void in the lives of all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that his death be recorded in the minutes of the Board of School Directors and that the Secretary be instructed to express the sympathy of the members of the Board to his wife, Betty; his son, John; his daughters, Colleen and Jennifer and to his entire family.

Mr. Caffrey moved, seconded by Dr. Susek.

All in favor – 8 Ayes

NEW BUSINESS - None

COMMUNICATION FROM SOLICITOR – None

Motion to adjourn by Dr. Susek, seconded by Rev. Walker.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.